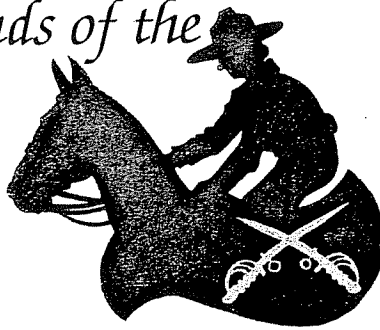


Friends of the



San Jose Mounted Unit

October 29, 2007

Dear Mayor's Budget Shortfall Advisory Group:

The purpose of my letter is to respectfully ask that the City of San Jose leave the San Jose Police Mounted Unit intact and not "take away" from the patrol unit now or in the future. In addition, I ask that the task force consider keeping the San Jose Police Department at its current staffing and fiscal budget levels without making any cuts to the Police Department for the next three years.

- The San Jose Police Department is the only department in San Jose that is responsible for keeping San Jose safe. There is no other department who responds to homicides, rape, kidnapping, burglary, speeding cars or other illegal activities.
- Listen to the experts in law enforcement. With all due respect, Chiefs of Police are the experts in law enforcement, not City Manager's offices or outside consultants. The City of San Jose should listen its Police Chiefs to ensure that safety needs are met.
- The San Jose Police Department is understaffed. Current staffing levels mirror those from the 1980's and 1990's even though the population for San Jose has drastically increased. This officer shortfall has led to officers having to work longer work hours and experiencing more health related problems.
- Residents of San Jose listed hiring more police officers as one of their top priorities according to the Mayors Community Poll.
- The City of San Jose has been proud of its "safest big city" title; however, the City came close to losing the title this year when the title was challenged by other cities.
- The San Jose Mounted Unit is supported by Scott Knies (President of the Downtown San Jose Association), business, schools and residents of San Jose.
- The San Jose Police Department has a good reputation and many of its officers have been recruited to lead other cities. For example, former Chief of Police William Lansdowne is now Chief of Police in San Diego, Scott Seaman is now Chief of Police for the town of Los Gatos, and former Chief Joe McNamara is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. These are only a few names among many others.

History of the Formation of the San Jose Mounted Unit

In 1985, three factors gave support to the formation of a full-time Mounted Unit: the renovation of the downtown area, the expansion of the City parks system, and the decision by the Council that Park Rangers would not be sworn personnel.

In late 1985, an agreement was reached between the Police and the Parks and Recreation Department, whereby the Police Department would occupy the Tully Road Stables, housing the Mounted Unit, Parks enforcement and Canine Units, in consideration for patrol and support services at several City parks (Coyote River Park, Almaden Lake Park, Alum Rock Park and Lake Cunningham Park). One police sergeant was assigned full-time to the Tully Road Stables to coordinate the renovation of the debilitated facility. Utilizing City workers (electrician, plumbers, painters, etc.) and inmates assigned to the Public Service Program, the remodeling was completed with little cost to the City.

In 1986, Mayor Tom McEnery and Chief of Police Joe D. McNamara formed a blue-ribbon Task Force to raise money to purchase needed equipment for the new full-time Unit. Approximately \$70,000 was collected by private citizens and used to purchase 14 horses, 13 saddles, blankets and associated leather gear, one marked pick-up truck and one six-horse trailer.

In July 1985, a police officer was selected as the Unit's horse trainer, to be responsible for selecting and training the horses, as well as training all Unit members. The first five Unit members graduated from the 14-week academy in December of 1986, and the second group of five officers graduated in April of 1987. To date, the Mounted Unit is twenty-one years strong.

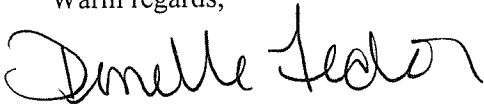
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I urge you to talk with Captain Diane Urban or Assistant Chief of Police Tuck Younis about the importance of the Mounted Unit. Ride your bike along the side of an officer on a bicycle or take a ride in the police helicopter. Think about what it is like to sit in a car or on a motorcycle all day or night for any call that might come your way. Stop and ponder how important all of these components are to a well run police department.

There are many departments that can utilize volunteers or the public/privatization model; however the police department is not one of those departments. Please consider the good work of our police department and not to forget that police officers are first responders to dangerous calls; they put their lives on the line for the sake of public safety. They deserve to be cared about; they deserve to be kept at their current budget without any cuts.

Thank you for your time in reading my letter and reviewing the material in this folder. I respect your role on this task force and acknowledge the experience that you bring forth. I understand that it may appear fair to bring "everything" to the table; however, I don't believe that the Police Department should have to suffer further cutbacks. San Jose needs to protect public safety. If we don't protect our police officers; then who will protect us?

Warm regards,



Denelle Fedor
President, Friends of the San Jose Mounted Unit



Joseph D. McNamara
Research Fellow

Expertise: Criminal justice, police technology and management systems, crime prevention, international drug control policies

Joseph D. McNamara was appointed a research fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, in 1991. He was chief of police for the city of San Jose, California, for fifteen years. He is recognized as an expert in criminal justice, police technology and management systems, crime prevention, and international drug control policies.

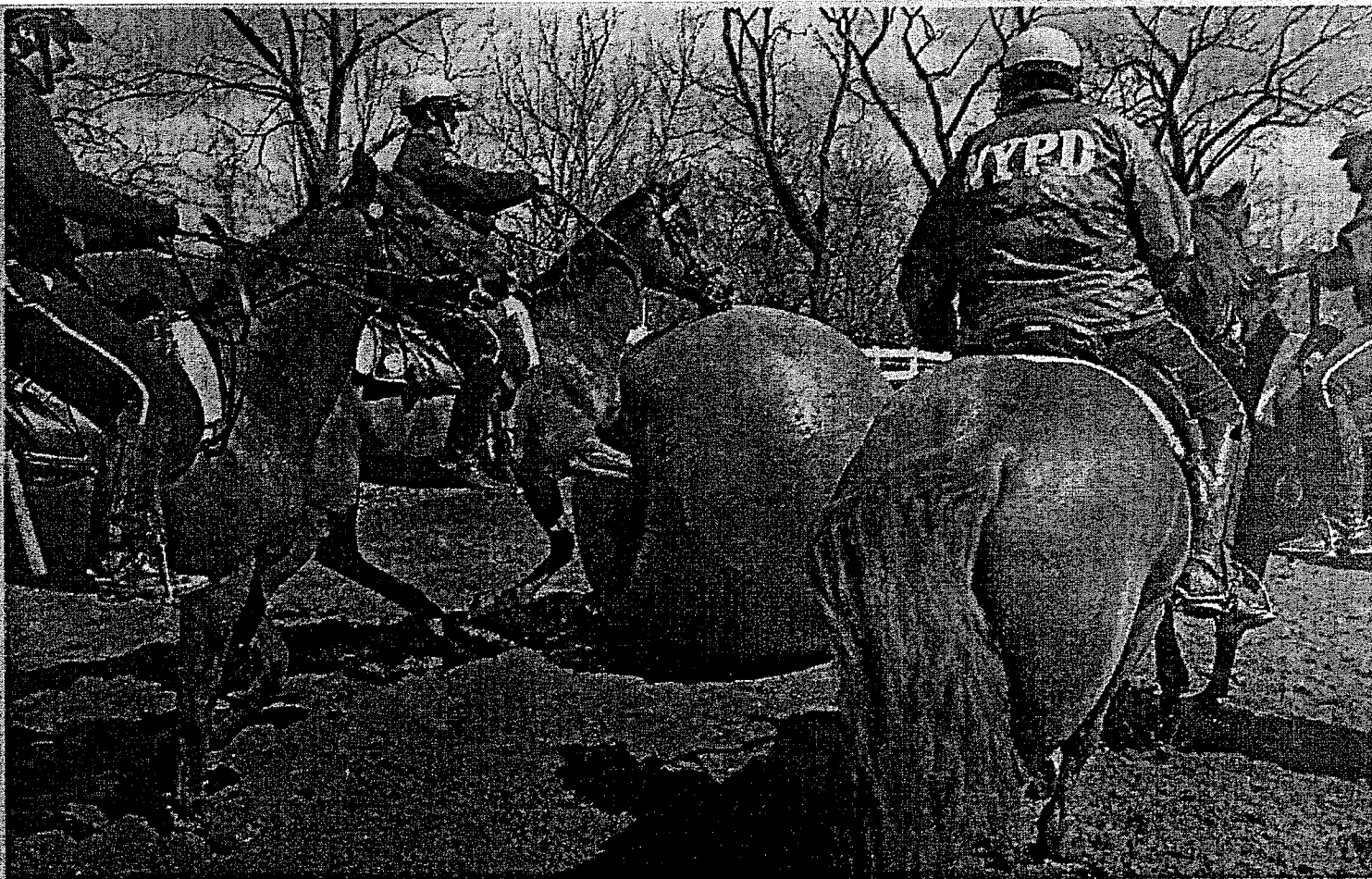
McNamara's career in law enforcement spans a thirty-five-year period. He began in Harlem as a beat patrolman for the New York City Police Department. He rose through the ranks and in midcareer was appointed a criminal justice fellow at Harvard Law School, focusing on criminal justice research methodology. Following this appointment he took a leave from police work and obtained a doctorate in public administration at Harvard. Returning to duty with the NYPD, he was appointed deputy inspector in charge of crime analysis for New York City.

In 1973 McNamara became police chief of Kansas City, Missouri, leading that department into groundbreaking research and innovative programs. In 1976 McNamara was appointed police chief for the city of San Jose, where he remained until his retirement in 1991. During his tenure, San Jose (the third-largest city in California and the eleventh largest in the United States) became the safest city in the country, despite having the fewest police per capita. The San Jose police became a model for innovation, community relations, utilization of technology, and productivity. The department's advanced training and computerization programs have been duplicated throughout the world.

McNamara has served as lecturer and adjunct professor at five different colleges and has lectured at many of the nation's top universities, including Harvard, Stanford, and the University of California at Berkeley. In 1980, he was appointed by the U. S. attorney general to the advisory board of the Bureau of Justice Statistics. He has been a commentator for National Public Broadcasting radio and has appeared on *Meet the Press*, *Good Morning America*, the *Today Show*, *CBS Morning News*, the *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, *Crossfire*, *Nightline*, *Oprah*, *Donahue*, *Larry King Live*, *Sixty Minutes*, and other programs.

He has been a consultant for the United States Department of Justice, State Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and some of the nation's largest corporations. Over the past decade, McNamara has organized four conferences at the Hoover Institution, attended by police chiefs and command officers, focusing on U. S. drug control policies.

McNamara has written five books, including three national best-selling detective novels and a respected crime prevention text. He has published articles in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Kansas City Star*, *Newsday*, *Harper's*, *Cosmopolitan*, *National Review*, *USA Today*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *San Jose Mercury News*, and other publications. In addition, McNamara is sought as a lecturer throughout the country.



Chang W. Lee/The New York Times

Mounted police officers play a rugby training game to get horses used to maneuvering through crowds.

Police Turn to the Stable for Crime-Fighting Clout

By ANDREW JACOBS

In this high-tech, gadget-dependent, CSI-obsessed age of police work, one of the New York Police Department's most prized and pampered weapons in the war on lawlessness is a temperamental pack of hay-chomping lads named Zeus, Philly and Angus.

Now, after decades of consignment to Central Park patrols, ceremonial trots down Fifth Avenue and the occasional cameo at a raucous demonstration, these horses — and 85 of their brethren — have begun patrolling high-crime neighborhoods, making late-night shows of force through Times Square and taking the lead during search-and-rescue missions along thicket-filled riverbanks and

wooded urban parkland.

And there soon will be more of them: Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly is increasing the budget for the mounted troop, 75 horses and officers over the next three years, to eventually bring the total to 160, giving mounted patrols a larger role in battling crime.

"There's a reason we call them the 10-foot cop," Mr. Kelly said. "You can see them from blocks away, they're great at crowd control and they're probably the most photographed piece of equipment we have. I'm a huge fan."

So are police departments around the country. After decades of being viewed as a quaint 19th-century throwback, horseback policing is undergoing a resurgence in cities like

Honolulu, Las Vegas and Oklahoma City. Law enforcement officials have come to appreciate the tactical and economic advantages of a mobile crime-fighting force whose members cost one-fifth the price of a Crown Victoria cruiser.

One mounted officer, police strategists like to say, carries the punch of 10 beat officers, especially when it comes to making a statement at large public gatherings or on busy downtown streets.

Scott McClelland, whose family in Canada trains and sells horses to law enforcement agencies across North America, said he gets weekly calls from small town sheriffs and big city police chiefs interested in starting

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Police Increase Force (the 4-Legged Kind) to Fight Crime

Continued From Page A1

mounted units.

"They can do more than a cop on foot, or a guy in a car," said Mr. McClelland, speaking from his ranch on the plains of Saskatchewan. "They can gallop through traffic, go the wrong way up one-way streets, and they're great for community relations. I mean, you can't exactly pet a cop car. Or a police dog, for that matter."

In New York, once paired, officers and their horses often spend the rest of their careers together. For example, Sgt. William McKay and Angus have been partners for nine years. Recently, they helped round up a group of men involved in a shooting. All it took was the approaching clip-pity-clop of Angus and few stern shouts from Sergeant McKay.

"When a cop on horseback issues a command, people tend to listen," he said. "I mean, I'm sitting on a thousand pounds of animal. It's also human nature to respect and fear a horse."

Sergeant McKay's Coney Island-based unit recently began patrolling some of the more troubled precincts of central Brooklyn, including East New York and Brownsville, where they often draw a crowd that is both appreciative and awed. In communities with a longstanding mistrust of the police, he said, there is nothing like a large animal to break the ice. At the dawn of the automobile age, the city had 700 mounted officers. In

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The New York Times

1970's, in the fiscal crisis, that number dropped to 40. These days, the department spends \$4,000 to buy each horse, all of them castrated thoroughbreds or quarter horses that are groomed for police work.

Daily maintenance? About \$10 a day for hay, grain and bedding material. "Sure beats the price of gas," said Lt. David Gaynor, who oversees the stables in the Bronx where horses are tested and trained. "And they don't give off carbon monoxide."

For every horse that makes it to the streets of New York, at least five others are returned to the seller, Lieutenant Gaynor said. Inherently skittish and prone to flee at the first hint of trouble, many horses will rear up at a wind-blown plastic bag or back away from a groaning sanitation truck. Horses prone to bucking, bolting or nibbling on fingers are rejected.

Paint horses, those of mottled coloring, need not apply. (The department values dark-hued uniformity, although there is one snow-white horse on the force.) Ultimately, trainers look for a combination of intelligence, fearlessness and the child-friendly demeanor of a show pony.

Prospects that make it to the training center in Pelham Bay Park are put through a nerve-racking gantlet of sensory challenges that include smoke bombs, clanging metal pots, hissing flares and the ultimate test, blanks fired a few paces from a horse's head. After three to six months of training, graduates make a 12-mile victory march to Manhattan.

On a recent afternoon, about a dozen horses, some newly arrived, some tried-and-true veterans, were put through "nuisance training," an ad-

AUDIO AND SLIDE SHOW

Behind the scenes with the trainers of the Police Department's mounted troop. nytimes.com/nyregion.

hoc obstacle course. Because they are highly socialized pack animals, the old-timers will often lend confidence to the rookies, which is particularly helpful when horses and their riders are forced to gallop across a blue plastic tarp, dash along an alley of burning hay, then made to march against a phalanx of hostile men waving trash bags and firing off air horns.

Most officers in the coveted mounted troop avoid transfers and retire there.

The idea, trainers explained, is to simulate the more harrowing aspects of city life: a gun battle, the possible mayhem of a United Nations protest or, say, the ugly aftermath of a Yankees-Red Sox game that spills out into the parking lot. (Attention would-be troublemakers: police horses cannot be thwarted by firecrackers, carrots or golf balls rolled beneath their feet.)

Having endured fire, smoke and shouting men, the horses and their riders are rewarded with an equestrian rugby tournament involving a giant inflatable ball pushed around by snout and hoof. The exercise, Lieutenant Gaynor explained, is to

get the horses accustomed to pushing through throngs of people.

Although it is hard to find critics of mounted police — People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals supports law enforcement's humane use of horses — some experts say their value is limited. A mounted officer, they contend, might be reluctant to leave his horse behind to chase a fleeing suspect. Ice can be a formidable foe.

Others suggested that horses are a police department indulgence. Then there are waste-related issues, although horse manure, boosters pointed out, quickly dries up and blows away.

"Some cops disparage them as all show," said Peter C. Moskos, a former police officer who is now professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. "Some guys say they're no better than a set of bagpipes."

Getting a spot with one of the city's mounted troop is highly competitive, and once they get in, most officers stay until retirement, even if it means giving up more lucrative transfers. Old horses live out their final years at an upstate horse farm, and many officers will show up at the stables long before the start of their shift just to groom their partners.

After 10 years on foot patrol, Officer Chris Farino, 33, recently won a coveted spot in the mounted troop. "I played cops and robbers a long time, and now that I'm on a horse, my picture's on everybody's refrigerator," he said.

Friends in the force rib him, saying he is a playboy who no longer works for a living. After all, he said, most people pay good money to spend a few hours on horseback.

"Compared to traditional policing," he said, "this feels like a vacation."